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UA68/8/2 Margaret Diddle Oral History

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Jim Bennett: ...Project, April 19, 1978, an interview with Mrs. Ed Diddle in the Alumni Center on the campus. The interviewers are Dee Gibson and Jim Bennett. Mrs. Diddle, Where were you born?

Mrs. Ed Diddle: I was born at Sonora, Kentucky.

JB: Sonora. And when did you first come to Western?

Mrs. ED: In 1922.

JB: 1922. You were entering your freshman year, then, right?

Mrs. ED: No. I had come here from Belmont.

JB: Oh, I see. Now, that's in Nashville, the girl's school.

Mrs. ED: Yes.

JB: What do you recall about Western? What impressions do you remember when you first saw it?

Mrs. ED: Well, it was a small college, of course, and I liked it from the very first. My mother brought me down, and we all came to see Dr. Cherry and he showed us all around the campus. So, we decided that it was the best for me to come here my sophomore year.

JB: What were the living accommodations? Did they have dormitories for the girls then?

Mrs. ED: They had one dormitory which was Potter Hall at that time.

JB: And there were men's dorms.

Mrs. ED: No, there were no men's dorms.

JB: Yes, I understand they lived off campus.

Mrs. ED: Well, a lot of the people, a lot of the girls, too, lived off campus. They had really good boarding houses and good eating places.

JB: Do you recall what courses you were taking, some of the instructors?

Mrs. ED: I was majoring in Physical Education, and I remember I took math and that was awful hard.

JB: It was for me, too.

Mrs. ED: And, golly, I don't remember all the courses I had to take. I had to take English under Dr. Leiper, and then I took English under - who was that other teacher - Mr. Wilson.

JB: Oh, Gordon Wilson.

DG: I'm sorry, I didn't know he was here then.

Mrs. ED: Uh-huh. And then I had some education courses, and I don't remember who was teaching those education courses at that time.

DG: I guess you probably had a course under Dr. Steve, too, didn't you?

Mrs. ED: No. He came way after we were married.

JB: Let's see. Was Dr. Willy here then in education or was he later?

Mrs. ED: Uh, I never did have a class under Dr. Willy.

DG: Was Dr. Willy still here then?

Mrs. ED: No. Huh-uh.

DG: Well, Mrs. Diddle, you played basketball here, and when was the first time you met Mr. Diddle?

Mrs. ED: Well, now Uncle Billy Craig was our basketball instructor, and

then, of course, Ed had the boys. And I met him through the boys and girls playing together. So, that's how I met him.

DG: What type of a man was Mr. Craig, Bill Craig, as a coach, as a person?

Mrs. ED: Oh, he was just as sweet as he could be, just the nicest person that ever was, and we had a real good basketball team. We beat Kentucky, and that was the first time that Kentucky had ever played Western to beat them, I mean to play them at all. And we beat the girls in that game that night, and then the next time we beat them, of course, was down in Houston.

DG: Down in Houston?

Mrs. ED: Boys beat the boys at Kentucky down in Houston.

JB: Oh, that's right.

Mrs. ED: That was the second game.

DG: Well, then, you married Mr. Diddle in what year?

Mrs. ED: In '23.

DG: And, so your first year at Western was what year, then?

Mrs. ED: '22.

DG: So, you've spent a long time here. Well, in your - Dr. Cherry - What do you remember about Dr. Cherry more, maybe more than anything as far as his leadership ability and personality and so forth?

Mrs. ED: Well, he was certainly a fine man and certainly kept tab on all of his students. I remember one time Ed and me and Edie Ward and Beth, we decided we'd play cards on Sunday afternoon over in the little -

DG: Cedar House.

Mrs. ED: Cedar House. So, about the time we got all the cards ready and started playing, here came Dr. Cherry around the corner. And we grabbed the cards and we ran to the basement you know. And he came and he knocked and he knocked and he said, "I hear you down there. I hear you down there. Come out! Come out!" But, of course, we never did come out. But he was a great man.

DG: He kindly ran a firm school, to say the least.

Mrs. ED: He sure did.

DG: Did you have the chapel programs back then every day?

Mrs. ED: Every day you had to go to chapel.

DG: And he'd kindly charge the people up with the Western spirit and so forth.

Mrs. ED: Oh, he sure did. But we had to go every morning at ten o'clock, I think it was. Chapel was from 10 till 10:30; then we went to our classes.

DG: Well, as you started out in the basketball and football and Mr. Diddle was coaching both of them, and later on, the boys of course, moved in with you, same as, right after the war and we'll get to that later, but what do you remember best of all about being the coach's wife for so many years at Western. What did you enjoy most about it?

Mrs. ED: Oh, I enjoyed all of it. I really did enjoy it; it was a great life. I enjoyed especially the boys after they came to the dormitory where we were. We all had a good time together, and I really did enjoy it.

JB: Did you make all of the road trips with the teams?

Mrs. ED: Most of them, yes. I missed very few of them.

JB: Now, I suppose in the earlier days you were traveling by train a good deal, weren't you?

Mrs. ED: Trains and cars. A lot of them - most of them were on the train.

JB: Was there an organized conference then, back in the '20's and the '30's?

Mrs. ED: Yes, there was.

DG: Was the SIAA there then?

Mrs. ED: Was that the SIAA?

DG: There was one that the SIAA came in the '30's, but I didn't know whether it was before that or not?

Mrs. ED: No, I guess that was the SIAA, and I know we went to Winchester and played.

DG: And KIAC.

Mrs. ED: KIAC. And we went there one time in late September or in October, I guess it was, and we had a snow storm.

DG: It even snowed back then, didn't it?

Mrs. ED: Yeah, it really did!

JB: I know you wouldn't remember a schedule; I'm not asking that kind of thing, but say in the period of the '20's, what were some of the schools that Western played in basketball and football?

Mrs. ED: Well, we played Berea and Winchester, Kentucky Wesleyan and -

DG: Centre, maybe?

Mrs. ED: Yes, we played Centre and -

DG: Union? Union College?

Mrs. ED: No, I don't think we ever played Union. I can't remember.

JB: Didn't they play Vanderbilt sometimes?

Mrs. ED: I don't think we ever played Vanderbilt for a long time after that. I believe that was later that we played Vanderbilt. We played.- I know we always went to that SIAA down in Mississippi to a tournament one time, and I remember Berea was one of our strong competitors. I can't remember those other Kentucky colleges, though.

JB: What about Eastern?

Mrs. ED: Yes, I guess we played Eastern; I'm sure we did. Eastern and Berea and - that would be only three.

DG: University of Louisville?

Mrs. ED: Yes, we played University of Louisville. I don't think Murray was -

JB: Murray didn't get started until mid-'20's, I think.

Mrs. ED: No, hm-mm.

JB: What about Transylvania?

Mrs. ED: Yes. We played Transylvania. Transylvania and Centre and Berea and -

DG: Well, back then, when you made these trips, course I know it was very difficult to get there, but how did the basketball facilities compare to our Red Barn, as we called it then? And describe our old Red Barn to us.

Mrs. ED: Well, the transportation was about the same; you had cars then. 'Course, when I came, didn't many of the students have a car, and it was hard for them to get cars to go up to Winchester and play. If we didn't have the cars, then we all had to go on train. Let's see. The old Barn.

You didn't play in that one, did you?

DG: No. I came here in '41. By that time we had that real fine, we had over where the laundry is now. The one that preceeded that I've seen pictures of, but it'd been torn down when I got here.

Mrs. ED: Well, it was a barn all right.

JB: It looked like it from the pictures - it looked like that's what it was built like.

Mrs. ED: It really was.

DG: It didn't have pot belly stoves in the ends of it, did it though, like some of the old gyms? You don't remember that, do you?

Mrs. ED: Yeah, I sure do, and I don't know how that was heated. I don't suppose they had any heat; I don't know. I don't believe we did.

DG: Well, how do you think Mr. Diddle was able to persuade Dr. Cherry or how was Dr. Cherry able to persuade the legislature and so forth to be able to build such a fine gymnasium that was built where our present library is? Because it was the largest at that time of about any school in the South, and I know when it was built I heard a lot of stories say, "Well, it's going to be a pink elephant. They'll never fill it." Then it wasn't but a few years till it was too small. But do you know anything about how that was developed, how we were able to swing that?

Mrs. ED: Well, I think it was on account of us having such good basketball teams. They knew we had to have something to play in, because we couldn't accomodate any of the people in that old Red Barn. So, I'm sure that was the reason that they had them to build this other one.

JB: What kind of facilities did these other schools have, the ones we mentioned while ago?

Mrs. ED: Well, I'm sure when we went to - I don't remember ever going to

Berea to play there, but I know when we went to Winchester to the tournament and Harry Hardy was on the club, and they had to settle for not much better than our old Red Barn. And I remember that was the year when we won, and you could hold the ball down at the end of the court. And the score was, I think, 9 to 11 or something like that. They just kept the ball going down to the end of the court the whole time.

DG: Yeah, I've seen a write up on that. Basketball has changed so much. Do you remember any of the - without putting you on the spot or anything - do you remember any of your favorite teams or players that stood out a little more than any of the others?

Mrs. ED: That's been so long ago, Dee, I can't remember any of those players.

DG: Dr. Hobbs might have been on that team.

Mrs. ED: He was on the team when we went to Mississippi, when we went down there and played. And we won, and Tom Hobbs was one of the players. I can't remember - there was a McGowan boy on that team; I don't remember his first name though.

DG: Was the refereeing as much home-cooking back then?

Mrs. ED: Well, I'd say it was better than it is now, because I think it's horrible now.

JB: Well, what about the student turn out in those days? Did nearly all of the students go out to the games?

Mrs. ED: Everybody went. I don't believe there was a single person in the dormitory that didn't go to the ball games. They really did go.

DG: Did you ever realize at that time what an unusual spirit Western had over and above other schools? Did that dawn on you at that time, even?

Mrs. ED: Well, I think it just began to snowball and just gradually grew

and grew until everybody was in on it.

JB: Now, Mr. Diddle was coaching all of the sports, wasn't he?

Mrs. ED: All of them.

JB: Football and basketball and baseball, I guess those were the sports.

Mrs. ED: The three: baseball and football and basketball.

JB: Now, that really - going to the games and watching the scrimmage and so on - that was a major part of the social activity of the students, wasn't it?

Mrs. ED: Oh, yes.

JB: I mean, there were not many other things competing for their time.

Mrs. ED: Well, we didn't have radio, and they didn't have television. They didn't have anything to do except to go to the games, and everybody turned out because that was the big thing to do.

JB: Can you recall any other kinds of social activities that they had?

Mrs. ED: Well, they always had - in the spring they always had a water-melon feast for all the students, and we would go to Beech Bend and have a picnic. And I guess that was about all of anything that we had.

JB: I've heard some people mention making trips to Mammoth Cave.

Mrs. ED: Yeah, they did. I never did go to Mammoth Cave, though.

JB: Someone was describing - some woman was telling me they had a special kind of dress or costume that the women wore when they went to Mammoth Cave. I don't know what it looks like, I'm wondering. She said they all dressed alike; there was a uniform.

Mrs. ED: I guess they all wore bloomers and blouses.

JB: I guess so.

Now what about Mr. Cherry's summer home? Didn't he frequently take the whole student body up there for an outing?

Mrs. ED: I think he took the faculty, but I don't think he ever took the whole student body. It was out there on the river. I know I never did go out there, and I believe it was just the faculty he would take out there...

DG: What do you remember, Mrs. Diddle, about your first recollection of Dr. Thompson as a student and as he kindly progressed up the ladder?

Mrs. ED: Well, he came here as a football player, but I don't think Kelly ever did play much football.

JB: He got an injury, didn't he?

Mrs. ED: I think so.

JB: Almost as soon as he got here.

DG: Right. He hurt his shoulder or something and could not play anymore.

Mrs. ED: Mm-hmm. He couldn't play, but he was always very active, and I think he took part in all the things that were going on and helped with them in a different capacity. He would write up the games and all like that.

DG: I know he and Mr. Diddle were very close, and I know that he did a great job as publicity director. Of course, he went on, and I guess that as far as your relationship, you were involved with him athletically more than any other way as he helped in that phase of the university's growth.

Mrs. ED: Yes. He sure did.

DG: What was your reaction when Mr. Diddle and Western played Middle Tennessee when Little Eddie was coaching for the first time?

Mrs. ED: Oh, it was awful. I know that the first time they went down there, I told them I wasn't going to go. So, I put on a funny-looking hat and a big coat and pulled it all over my shoulders and I sat up in the bleachers. I didn't think that Ed or Eddie would know I was there. So, Eddie looked up there, and he said, "Hi, Mom! How are you?"

JB: No getting away from it, was there?

Mrs. ED: I was trying to hide; I didn't want to be there, but I still wanted to see it.

DG: That was one where you wanted both teams to win.

Mrs. ED: Yeah, that sure was.

DG: I know there had to be a lot of pressure on you that evening.

JB: That'd be like the President at the Army-Navy game, wouldn't it? Switch sides at half time.

Now, how long and where did you and Mr. Diddle live? I know that maybe, some time in the forties I guess it was, you moved into the Diddle dorm, but -

Mrs. ED: Well, when we first married we lived down in the Village. They had little houses down there for faculty members and students, and we lived down in the village for, I guess, two years. And then we moved over on 15th Street where Miss Jeffries, a teacher that was here - she owned the house. And she was from Sonora, Kentucky; she was the geography teacher here for years. So, then we bought that house there and moved in, and we lived there until 1929, and then in 1929 we built the house out on Normal Drive. And then we lived there until we moved up on the hill with the boys.

JB: Now, when did that occur?

Mrs. ED: Do you remember?

DG: It had to be somewhere right between '43 and '46, because we left before the war and then when we came back the houses were there. So, it must have been '45 or '46, Mrs. Diddle, during the way, Second World War. Because in '43 we were still down in the Village, and after the war we lived with you and Mr. Diddle.

Mrs. ED: Mm-hmm. It must have been about '45, I guess.

DG: You say you liked that phase of it a lot?

Mrs. ED: Oh, I didn't like it when he told me I was going to have to move; it nearly killed me. But after I got up there, I enjoyed the boys terribly. I really did enjoy them.

DG: Well, you were a second mother to so many of them and everything. It was, I think, a great experience for the players, because it seemed like it was home away from home about as well as it could have been.

Mrs. ED: Well, they were mighty good boys, and we really had a good time together and didn't have any trouble with them at all.

JB: What had that building been before you moved in?

Mrs. ED: Oh, that was the Music Department. Of course, when I first came here, Mr. Thomas lived in the house; he was a lawyer here in town. And then the school bought the place, and Dr. Strahm had the Music Department there. And then after - I guess it was still the Music Department when we moved up there in it.

JB: Now, someone had told me that - the building is gone now, but it was a Home Management House. Well, it was right where the Cravens Library is. It almost stuck out into the street, a stone building there right on the curve, and they tore it down when they built the tall part of the library. Was that a part of - someone had said that had once been a stable for the house where you lived.

Mrs. ED: The Home Economics Department was in Cabell Hall when I came and it was next to Potter Hall.

JB: Well, what I'm talking about is - this was just, oh, just a few years ago, 10 or 12 years ago, when they had the Home Management House there in that little sort of a cottage right on the big bend of Normal Drive, almost stuck out onto the sidewalk.

DG: I think it was later used as a guest house.

JB: Yeah, it was the guest house later.

DG: It was across from our guest house now. It's right below the old Music Building, the rock music building that we just tore down recently. It was about where the village is, right next to the village. Do you remember that facility much at all?

Mrs. ED: The Village?

DG: No. The Home Management House. That facility there next to the music building.

Mrs. ED: I didn't know that the Home Management House was ever down there, but I guess - yes, it was!

JB: Not too long -

Mrs. ED: It was. It was down there, and then they built the regular Home Management House right across from Garrett Hall.

DG: Did the students - were they real enthusiastic about the swimming pool when they put the swimming pool in what is now, where Cravens Graduate Library is now?

Mrs. ED: Well, Dee, I'm sure they were crazy about it, because I remember they had all the children that were on the faculty could go up there and swim, and my kids just lived up there in the pool. They had real good

instructors, and they enjoyed it thoroughly. And I guess they all took advantage of it.

DG: Well, when you were at Western, then, did you say the Potter Hall did have food in the basement there at that time?

Mrs. ED: Oh, yes! We had a dining room in the basement.

DG: And it was kind of boarding house style back then, wasn't it, rather than cafeteria style?

Mrs. ED: Yes, Mr. and Mrs. Croft, - Mr. Croft, I think, ran it; and Mrs. Croft was one of his waitresses. The food was all cooked and put on the tables in big bowls and everybody just helped themselves.

DG: And I imagine at that time when you came to Western you probably paid one fee which covered board and room, didn't it?

Mrs. ED: Yes. Um-hmm.

JB: I was just thinking about - well, a little bit later; I guess by the 1940's when Western was really moving into the big time and playing in tournaments in New York, one place, then another. And I suppose you made most of these trips, didn't you?

Mrs. ED: Yes, I always did.

JB: If you could single out maybe the first time that the team played in New York. This must have been quite a thing for most of the boys on the team, sort of like I was, as you said a while ago, hadn't been very far away and to go to New York in play in a game.

Mrs. ED: I remember we all got on the train and went; I remember that. I remember that. I think Edith Stansbury and Elizabeth Hornback and Sarah Thompson and I all went as a group. But, now, that was when Dr. Garrett was here. That was our first trip, I think.

DG: That was in '41 and '42. Did you, at that time, realizing that Madison Square Gardens, 'course, it was then, nationally and the big city of New York. Did you feel like the poor old country boys, as Mr. Diddle used to say, had a chance up there in the big time against those people the first time we went? Do you remember?

Mrs. ED: Oh, I'm sure they - Well, I felt like they had just as good a chance as any of the rest of them. They weren't so hot, I didn't think. It might have been New York, but still we were just as big as they were.

DG: Well, I felt you would feel that way. Do you remember anything about the big thrill that year. The first time when they won the first two games and lost the finals by one point or two points to West Virginia. Do you remember the thrill of the victories? Was there anything specifically come to mind?

Mrs. ED: No. We were just awful sorry that we finally did get beat, but it was great to go as far as we - that we were in it as long as we were.

DG: Did Madison Square Garden with 18,000 capacity impress you much, the bigness of it? I know it was the largest place you'd ever seen at that time, probably, for basketball.

Mrs. ED: Yeah, but I don't know.

DG: It was just another place for you.

Mrs. ED: It was just another place. It didn't seem that large.

JB: How did the crowd react? Now, they would be mostly big city, eastern New Yorkers. How did they react to Western?

Mrs. ED: Oh, they were pulling for us.

JB: Were they?

Mrs. ED: Yeah. After we went as far as we did, why they all got with us.

It was a good crowd.

DG: They always liked Mr. Diddle's style of ball up there, because he always put on a show of - he never sat on the points for sure and he believed in running. And they were amazed at the big boys who could run so fast, and I remember the press was very receptive and pro-Western. Do you remember anything about the management of the Ned Irish and those people? Did you meet any of those people at that time?

Mrs. ED: Yes, I met them all. They were really good to us. They really were just as nice as they could be.

DG: And the next year Western made a regular trip up there. They played at Buffalo and Madison Square Garden and Philadelphia. You made that trip, didn't you, when we went on a Pullman?

Mrs. ED: Yes. And we went over to some college. Was it Cambridge?

DG: We went over to Cornell during the war.

Mrs. ED: Cornell?

DG: Right. A little later than that, '45 or 6 or something like that. Do you remember any of the people that went on the pullman? You know, at that time not only the team, but Herman Lowe, for instance, went and people like that. Do you remember any of the other - maybe Harry Leachman and Potter - ...Do you remember any of the other people that maybe went?

Mrs. ED: Yeah. Mr. Potter went with us and Agnes. And, oh, there was a large group from Bowling Green that went with us. I remember one time the Bohannons and the Romers, both of the Romers. I remember them going with us one time. And the people from down at Sebree went with us.

DG: Well, Dr. Garrett was president then, and of course, he made the trip, too. What do you remember about President Garrett that sticks out in your mind?

Mrs. ED: Oh, well, he always took us to this German restaurant where they had pig knuckles and sauerkraut, and we really didn't like it.

JB: Was that _____ restaurant?

Mrs. ED: I don't remember what the name of it was, but we always had to go there with Dr. Garrett; I know that.

END OF TAPE ONE SIDE ONE

JB: How long, usually, would one of these game trips last? Say you'd make a swing up to the east. Would be gone a week or something like that?

Mrs. ED: Yeah, a week. We would be gone about a week.

JB: And you'd be traveling by train.

Mrs. ED: Yeah, we traveled by train. On the first trips we made we always went by train; then the last few times we went, we went by air.

JB: Now, you have what? Reserved cars on the train? A pullman or you'd just be scattered all around?

Mrs. ED: No, you'd just be scattered all around.

JB: That took a lot of planning and getting ready for, not only to lay out the plans, but just individuals who were going to stay that long.

DG: I know, like you said a while ago, Mrs. Diddle, there wasn't any TV back then, and, of course, the newspapers in New York they got the information out real fast, but do you remember any of the radio and newspaper people that might have been on the trip. Burt Barone, was Burt involved then? Now, Ken Given was. Who else do you remember at that time that maybe covered from the media standpoint back in the '40's who went to New York?

Mrs. ED: I remember Ken, but I don't remember anybody else besides him

that went with us.

DG: Ken Given. He was on the radio back here, WLBJ, I think was Ken's association then. What stands out in your memory about the good, competitive relationship, athletically, against Eastern and Louisville and Murray and Morehead? Did they mean a lot more to you personally?

Mrs. ED: Oh, I think they always - state schools always was more interesting than somebody we didn't know very well. Our rivalry with Louisville was terrible. And with Eastern also.

JB: Was Louisville the major rival team?

Mrs. ED: It was then. For a while. You remember that time we played in Louisville that - I believe it was the last game, I guess, we had to play - and the ball was out of bounds and - who was the boy that grabbed the ball and shot it and we beat 'em by one point?

DG: It might have been -

Mrs. ED: Duck Ray. Yeah, Duck Ray grabbed the ball and threw it in the goal and we won by one point.

DG: Yeah, and that was in - We, - oh, I don't know. We'd beaten them in a couple of times that year by about 25, then beat them one point that night and Duck made the bucket.

Mrs. ED: Yeah, he made it. And I remember that Bob Cockran - I said, "I just can't stand this any longer." Bob said, "I can't either," and we got up out of our seats and went back behind the bleachers until the game was over. Bob said, "I can't take it." I said, "I can't either."

JB: I'm sure some of the time you've missed some of these games. I guess you listened on the radio. What was that experience as compared to being there?

Mrs. ED: Oh, of course, it wasn't like being there, but it was good to

hear them and to know that we had won, but it wasn't like being there.

DG: Who took it harder when Western lost, you or Mr. Diddle?

Mrs. ED: Well, we never did talk shop. Never once. If the game - if we got beat, it was over. There never was anything ever said about it.

DG: There wasn't much to do about it.

Mrs. ED: No, there wasn't anything you could do about it. Just hope that the next time we wouldn't get beat.

JB: What about recruiting during these years?

Mrs. ED: Oh, I went with Ed on all those - most of those recruiting trips, and we would go up into the mountains to get the boys. And we had an old Plymouth automobile, and that was during the war. And, of course, you just couldn't buy a car. If you had one, you'd better keep it. And the fenders were all bent and everything else, and we would take off and go up into the mountains. And Ed would always like to take these shortcuts, you know, and we were in Manchester one day, and he said, "Well, I know there's a road that we can take to go to Corbin on an old road, and we're going to take that road." Well, we took it. And I want you to know that the dust was clear down, oh, it was about five or six inches deep, and when we got to Corbin - of course, we didn't have any air conditioning in the car. Hadn't heard of that. And we had to roll the car door windows clear up, and the windows were just solid with dust. And when we got to Corbin, he was solid with dust and I was solid with dust. You couldn't have told whether we were white or black. And we had to go into - of course, there were no motels - we had to go to a hotel and take a bath and the tub was just like mud! It was awful! And that was one of Ed's shortcuts.

Another time I remember we went up in Virginia, and Eddie, at that time, was working up there with his uncle. And he said, "Now, we're going to have a good trip." Mary Jo was at Lake. . . at camp. And he said, "We'll be gone about five days. We'll come back through the Smokies and stay there a day." So, we got up to Virginia one afternoon and picked up Eddie, and Eddie was going with a little girl that lived over at Bristol,

so he had a date with a little girl over at Bristol that night. And the next morning, Ed knocked on the door of Ed's and said, "Get up. We're ready to go." He got up at four o'clock, picked up Mary Jo over at Lake . . . , and we started driving to the park. And Ed would just keep on driving, you know, and there would be signs all along the road that said, "Don't feed the bears." "Don't feed the bears." So, Mary Jo and Eddie, they were teenagers of course, and they'd say, "Don't stop, Daddy. We can't feed the bears. Don't stop, Daddy. We can't feed the bears." And we kept along until that afternoon late, and he said, "I think we better go on to Bowling Green." I want you to know he said, "Now there is a river down here, but there's a ferry across this river. And we take this shortcut and go across the river." And we took the shortcut and got down to the river and there wasn't any ferry there. We had to turn around and come back home, and we were at home in bed by ten o'clock that night. Now, that was a trip! I don't think I even had my toothbrush out of the suitcase. Oh, he was funny! He just couldn't stay away from Bowling Green, just couldn't stay! But I don't think we got any boys on that trip. I don't remember. I don't think he had time to look up any boys.

JB: Did you get a lot of boys from the mountain area?

Mrs. ED: Oh, yes. We got a lot of them. You remember a lot of stories, too, don't you?

DG: Yeah. Well, I know they tell the story that - I don't know whether you remember that or not - but they said Harry Hardin was swimming in a creek somewhere in the nude, as everyone swam in the creek back then. And Mr. Diddle swam out to him from my understanding and signed him. He was skinny-dipping, too.

Mrs. ED: I don't think he swam out to him. I imagine Harry had to swim to him.

DG: I guess the recruiting, except for the time involved, I guess it was pleasant, though, back then. There weren't any of these fantastic demands of today.

Mrs. ED: All they wanted was a place to go to school and get their room and board, and they were thrilled to death. They didn't want any big salaries. Charlie Osburne was one of those boys we got up in the mountains.

DG: What do you remember about Carlyle Towery when he was at Western?

Mrs. ED: Where was Carlyle from?

DG: He was from Marion. What do you remember of him as a player, though? I know he was one of Mr. Diddle's all-time greats, for sure.

Mrs. ED: Oh, yeah. He was really a good player. And, Dee, I think he still lives down there and comes back every now and then.

DG: Well, then he had his assistant coach. 'Course, he and Mr. Stansbury, and 'course he got off a freight to be brought over here. He was firing a train, then, between...

Mrs. ED: Shepherdsville - that's where he was from.

DG: Right...Between there and Cincinnati. What do you remember about him and Mr. Hornback, specifically that you could mention?

Mrs. ED: Let's see. He came before Ed, didn't he?

DG: He was here - Ed was freshman when Mr. Stansbury was assistant in football and basketball.

Mrs. ED: Well, I - When Stansbury first came here, he decided - 'course he wanted to get into athletics, but he went into L. T. Smith's department and worked down there for maybe a year or two, and then he came up as assistant basketball coach. Then after - 'course he went to war, and then Ted took over.

DG: Do you remember the early football years of Mr. Diddle?

Mrs. ED: Oh, yes, I remember! We went down and played Vanderbilt one

time. And, of course, everybody in the school - not everyone, but we had a real good crowd down there, and I don't think we got beat very bad. That was the first year after we were married that we were down there, so that was in about '24.

JB: When you were making these basketball trips and recruiting trips and your children were little, did they go along with you on the trips mostly?

Mrs. ED: No, I had a colored girl named Clara Whitney and I still have her.

JB: Really? That's a long association, isn't it?

Mrs. ED: But I could just walk out the door and say, "Clara, if you don't do anything else, take care of my children," and boy she would take care of my children while I was gone. So, she's really been wonderful.

JB: Did you drive during this time?

Mrs. ED: No, I never did drive on any of the trips. Oh, I could drive but I didn't need to. We always had a crowd of boys with us.

JB: Yeah. Be a real treat for them to get to drive, I imagine.

DG: Do you remember when Mr. Diddle and the association with the towel, how it developed or when it began or anything?

Mrs. ED: I sure don't, but I believe that developed after we got into the gym.

JB: We interviewed Mr. Stansbury and told us how that got started. It was while he was here. They were losing too many towels, and so they came up with the idea of dying them, because every so often Mr. Stansbury would go through the dorm during practice and collect towels. So, they decided that if they had some distinctive color, then they'd show up in the dorm. So, he bought some packages of Rit and got some tubs and simply dyed the towels, and it was fine. They looked great, until the first day after the showers. And all the boys started drying off and they turned red, and they decided

that they'd better buy some towels already colored after that. But that was to keep them from walking off with the towels.

DG: What do you remember about "Gander" Terry? You know, he was the head football coach here for about 5 or 6 or 7 years back in the late '30's and early '40's. He was athletic director, I believe. No, no. I don't guess he was the athletic director. He was a stern disciplinarian. I thought you might have remembered him.

Mrs. ED: I do remember Gander real well, but was he here for just two years?

DG: I thought he was probably here 5 to 6 to 7, but I'm not sure. He was here right in the late '30's and early '40's, for a few years there, and I thought maybe - 'cause he was like Mr. Diddle as far as running his show at football. In other words, you either did what he said or you headed home

Mrs. ED: Well, no, let's see. Swede Anderson came here as an assistant with Ed - football coach. Then after Swede left, and Swede had Gander Terry. And then Gander Terry left and -

DG: Then Winkenhoffer.

Mrs. ED: Yeah.

DG: What did you think that year when Little Eddie had accepted that scholarship with Vanderbilt? Mr. Hornback accepted the job with Vanderbilt; he signed Little Eddie, and then later on he turned the job down. Were you kindly pleased when Eddie was going - I know you had some mixed reaction: the way I remember, for him playing for Mr. Diddle. How did you feel about that?

Mrs. ED: Well, I wished he had stayed at Vanderbilt, but after Ted wasn't there, then of course, he didn't know who was going to come in. So, then he just came on back, which was okay with me if that's what he wanted to do.

DG: Did you ever have to get into any consoling any of the kids or anything

when they were down in the dumps and stuff like that?

Mrs. ED: No, they never did come to me with any of their problems. I guess they went to Ed and talked it over, 'cause I never - maybe one or two of them did. I believe I remember one boy that came in and told me he was going with this girl and he thought he was going to get married. I think his name was Bo. And I said, "Going to get married? You can't marry that girl." He said, "Why?" and I said, "Look at her across the table every morning at breakfast?" He laughed and he said, "Well," And I said, "Well, after all, beauty is only skin deep, anyway. It's okay."

DG: You mentioned a name a while ago that I didn't have the good fortune of knowing, but I've heard some people say that he was the greatest teacher who ever lived almost. How did Mr. Leiper, as an English teacher, how did he impress you?

Mrs. ED: Well, he was a marvelous teacher, but he really knew his English and you'd better know it, too. He didn't let anybody get by with anything. He was really tough, but he was a marvelous man and a wonderful teacher.

DG: Dr. Stickles wouldn't have been teaching history here when you were here, would he?

Mrs. ED: Oh, yes. And I had history under him and he was the best I ever had. Oh, he was marvelous? He knew that history from A to Z.

DG: Was he a pretty tough task master, too?

Mrs. ED: Oh, he was. Well, they were all, though, in those days. You didn't get by with a thing with any of those teachers.

DG: I guess you were supposed to show up for class every day, too, weren't you?

Mrs. ED: Yes, you'd better show up! And Mr. - the man that went to Nashville - Crabb -

JB: Alfred Lee Crabb

Mrs. ED: - that's the one I had my education courses under, was Mr. Crabb. And he was a marvelous; he really was.

JB: Did you know - I'm sure you knew Miss Gabie Robertson and Miss Anderson. Did you have them as -

Mrs. ED: Now, my children had them, but I didn't. They came after - I had Dr. Stickles, and Mary Jo and Miss Gabie and also Miss Anderson.

DG: You might have had Dr. Yarborough for math. Did you?

Mrs. ED: No, I didn't. I had - I think I had it under Daddy Burton.

DG: Do you feel like that basically teachers probably were tougher in those days than they are today?

Mrs. ED: Well, I think the reason is that there were so few of us. You see, we didn't have over ten or fifteen in any class, so you just had to come up with -

JB: You couldn't hide in numbers then.

Mrs. ED: You sure couldn't hide in numbers.

DG: Would you remember - Did the class meet every day or do you remember?

Mrs. ED: No, we met three times a week.

DG: And was each class about an hour or do you remember?

Mrs. ED: An hour. And we'd meet on Mondays -

JB: You had Saturday classes.

Mrs. ED: No, we didn't have a Saturday class, we'd meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Friday, and they were all three hour courses. And then we had some two hour courses that were in education, I think.

DG: Was physical education back at that time fairly -

Mrs. ED: Well, it certainly is different from what it is now. 'Course we just had grill work and all kind of exercises.

DG: Primarily just activities more than anything.

Mrs. ED: Mm-hmm. That's what they were.

DG: Who were some of your phys. ed. teachers? Do you remember?

Mrs. ED: I was supposed to have Miss Cherry. When I decided to come here, she was supposed to be my teacher, but she decided to go East to school. And I had another teacher. I can't remember her name right now.

JB: Was that Mrs. T. C. Cherry?

Mrs. ED: No.

JB: Mrs. H. H. Cherry-

Mrs. ED: Mrs. H. H. Cherry's daughter. Dr. Cherry's daughter, Josephine Cherry. She was a phys. ed. teacher.

DG: Was the Goalpose there then?

Mrs. ED: No, huh-uh. There were no eating places on the hill like you have today, like where you could go get a sandwich or anything like that.

DG: What was the closest place that you could even get a sandwich? Do you remember?

Mrs. ED: You couldn't; it was just boarding houses.

DG: The Western lunchroom wasn't down at the bottom of the hill or the Goalpost?

Mrs. ED: That was later. That was later.

JB: When did the - there was some time I think when the Home Economics Department had a tea room or something I heard mentioned. It was in the basement of what used to be White Stone Hall, I believe.

DG: West Hall is what that used to be called. I remember there used to be a - I think I'm right there - we used to have a kind of place there like a clinic except it wasn't called a clinic. Wasn't that correct? In West Hall, didn't we used to have some beds in there and Miss Red took care of the students who got sick and so forth?

Mrs. ED: That was in West Hall. Mm-hmm. We did.

JB: And somewhere there was for some years this tea room. I don't know exactly where it was. They - I remember Dr. Poteet has said that you could get a very good lunch there. I think the Home Ec students operated it.

DG: Well, now you say the boys - 'course they didn't have any boy's dorm - most of those, then, who probably roomed off campus were kindly a room and board package, weren't they? I guess where they stayed, most of the people kindly fed them at those places. Or do you remember? Was there much of that going on that they would feed you at the same place where you stayed?

Mrs. ED: Oh, yeah. Had boarding houses all over town.

DG: All over everything. I thought that's what you said earlier.

Mrs. ED: And they would eat wherever they roomed, a lot of them on Center Street.

DG: So, really, the students didn't have trouble, much, finding suitable housing, did they?

Mrs. ED: No, not at all, because there were so few of them.

DG: Do you remember when the Cedar House was built?

Mrs. ED: No, it was built before we came here. I mean, the students built it, but it wasn't finished. And then after so many years it was finished.

DG: They brought the logs from down at the bottom of the hill, I believe, the students did, my understanding of it, that I've heard anyway, then built it themselves, like you said. So, that was really a long process. It went over several years from start to finish. I guess.

Mrs. ED: 'Course it was already built when I came, but it wasn't finished.

JB: They cut those trees from the area that became the stadium. They clear that out. It's still a long haul, though, up there.

Mrs. ED: It sure is.

JB: That building's been used for so many different things. It was the library a while.

DG: And really people came back today and call it the Cedar House, natural because that's what it was when they were here. And most people ask about that. They say, "Is the Cedar House still here?" And it has fond memories even though they only had one ping pong table and a record player and a divan, and then some people always stayed there.

Mrs. ED: Well, now, before that, though, it was the library. It was the library for a long, long time until - well, I guess it was until they built this one over here.

DG: Well, now, when you first came here, what academic buildings were on the campus? Cherry Hall wasn't built till '36. What else -

Mrs. ED: There was some old barracks where the trains fueled, and that's where we had a lot of our classes. And then there was Potter Hall and Cabell Hall and the Administration Building and Potter Home and the Village. Then of course, they had the Rural School.

JB: Do you know where that was located? I haven't found anyone who can tell me where it was.

Mrs. ED: Well, it would be where North Hall is, I guess, now.

DG: Yeah, I think that would be about right on the nose. 'Cause that wasn't really torn down till after the war.

Mrs. ED: If that's North Hall, the first dormitory and then the second dormitory and just right along in there. And I believe that's North Hall, right across from where Dr. Cherry had built those apartment houses. It would be right across from there, 'cause that's where Eddie and Mary Jo went to school.

DG: So, you only really had about two or three academic buildings, then didn't you? You didn't have any of your classes in Potter Hall, did you?

Mrs. ED: Oh, no.

DG: That was all the housing except for the bottom, wasn't it?

Mrs. ED: Potter - Did they call that Potter Hall?

JB: There was a Potter College building where Cherry Hall is.

Mrs. ED: Yeah, we had classes in there, and that was Potter College, old Potter College.

JB: And Cabell Hall.

Mrs. ED: Cabell Hall and the Administration Building and then Potter Dormitory.

JB: That was about it, huh?

Mrs. ED: That was it.

DG: Do you remember Uncle Billy Hill very well?

Mrs. ED: Oh, yes.

DG: What do you know about him?

Mrs. ED: He was a sweet old man, just as nice as he could be.

DG: He was the recruiting college for Western at one time. He was the one and only, I think.

Mrs. ED: And he got up all the concerts and everything like that. He brought in all the artists. Now, that was another thing that we had on the Hill.

JB: That was an outstanding program. I've looked over some of the people that they brought in here, and it's amazing.

Mrs. ED: We had the best talent.

JB: Yeah, the really top people in music.

Mrs. ED: They sure did.

DG: They performed in Van Meter, I guess.

Mrs. ED: Yeah, And that was a big occasion, too, and they would have about I guess at first they had about five real prominent people out of New York. They had a pianist and a vocalist.

JB: They had Madame Schumann-Heinke, I think I noticed, the German singer, just was tops at the time.

Mrs. ED: Yes.

DG: And Billy Hill was, I believe, the main person responsible for booking those people in here and everything.

JB: Do you recall - I think they called it then High School Days, they would have over in the gym, the one that's the library now? The P. E. classes would put on demonstrations, and they would invite -

DG: Have a box lunch for each of the students.

Mrs. ED: Yeah, each student. They did that for a long time.

JB: And just had hundreds of people.

Mrs. ED: Now, that was when, -

DG: Closed school for the day, I think, if I'm not mistaken.

Mrs. ED: That was after, though, where the buses started running where they could bus the kids.

JB: Well, now there was something else that reminded me of. Once or twice they had some kind of a program, and it was just a huge thing, and I think everybody in Western had a part in this. And they had it out on the football field, and I think somebody told me that they ended it - I think at one end of the field they had a little log cabin built and the Indians attacked it and burned it up or something. I haven't been able to find out too much about that.

Mrs. ED: I don't remember anything about that at all.

JB: Do you remember the Chatauqua programs they had in the summer in the Farmer's Institutes?

Mrs. ED: Well, they had those here in Bowling Green, I'm sure, because they had them in Elizabethtown and I used to go to them. But -

JB: That may have been before you came; I'm not sure. I know Mr. Cherry was involved preparing those.

DG: The Collonade is such a spectacular piece of architecture in con-

juncture with the old football stadium and everything. Do you remember when it was finished how significant it seemed at that time to the people? I mean it's such a remarkable structure. Do you remember any especially strong sentiment about it at that time when it was finished?

Mrs. ED: I don't remember when it was finished.

DG: I think it was probably the late '20's, but I'm not sure. I might be wrong; maybe it was the '30's. But it was before Cherry Hall was finished, wasn't it? Cherry Hall was finished in '36, I think. But, you know, it is so spectacular, I just wondered back in those days - 'course, maybe things were more like you had in Van Meter which, of course, was spectacular, too, especially to people of this age who look back on things like that because somebody had to have some great - the architect on that building had some great ability.

END OF TAPE ONE SIDE TWO

DG: I guess L. T. Smith was the primary coordinator of our physical plant facilities.

Mrs. ED: Oh, yes. I'm sure he was. Um-hmm.

DG: I just didn't know whether at that time maybe it was so - how spectacular that thing looked to the people of that day.

Well, were you - during your years at Western, if you had to go and change many things in your association at Western -

Mrs. ED: No, I wouldn't change a thing. I would not change one thing. It has always just been great.

DG: You enjoyed the athletic associations and being a coach's wife -

Mrs. ED: I sure did.

DG: - even though it had the pressures and everything. You thoroughly enjoyed it.

Mrs. ED: Yeah, I enjoyed every bit of it. Wins and losses.

DG: Any of the referees stand out in your mind over the years?

Mrs. ED: Yeah, there really were good referees. They were outstanding.

DG: Do you remember anybody else in the history of Western that you want to say a few things about like Gordon Wilson, Dean Grise, or - ?

Mrs. ED: Well, of course, they were all much older than I was and mature men. They were all just marvelous men, and they were all good teachers.

DG: Highly dedicated.

Mrs. ED: That is right. They were highly dedicated.

DG: Did Mr. Diddle ever come close, during his career, to leaving Western? You would know better than anybody else.

Mrs. ED: No, I don't think he ever did.

DG: I know he had many offers, professional and what have you, but I don't think he gave any of them much consideration.

Mrs. ED: Mmm-mmm. I don't think he ever thought about leaving Western.

DG: I know he was offered a professional job more than once at a whole lot more pay than he was making at Western.

JB: Can you think of any things, Mrs. Diddle, that we have not hit on that you would like to mention?

Mrs. ED: I think we've hit on them all. I believe we've finished.

JB: Anything else, Dee?

DG: No, Jim, I believe - I appreciate Mrs. Diddle taking her time, and she'

given us some good information here.

JB: She certainly has.

DG: And I know there are a lot of other things she could give us, but I can't think of any questions right now.

JB: Tomorrow we'll think of all the questions. We do thank you so much.

Mrs. ED: Well, you're so welcome.

JB: It was mighty gracious of you to do it.

END OF INTERVIEW.